

History of the Georgetown Union Guard, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1868

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GEORGETOWN UNION GUARD

Georgetown Union Guard, Company A, Second Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 1
 Location: Georgetown, Eldorado County
 Mustered in April 25, 1863
 Mustered out June 9, 1868

Commanding Officers

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Aaron Bell, Captain | April 25, 1863 | May 16, 1863 |
| George V. Heasey, First Lieut. | April 25, 1863 | May 16, 1863 |
| Ezra L. Smith, Captain | April 30, 1864 | July 27, 1864 |
| Hiram M. Porter, First Lieut. | April 30, 1864 | July 27, 1864 |
| James Burr, Captain | April 29, 1865 | May 8, 1865 |
| Samuel Smith, First Lieut. | April 29, 1865 | May 8, 1865 |
| Hiram M. Porter, Captain | May 2, 1866 | Aug. 22, 1866 |
| J. S. Martin, First Lieut. | Aug. 4, 1866 | Aug. 20, 1866 |
| Hiram M. Porter, Captain (Re-elected 1867) | | |
| Isaac P. Jackson, First Lieut. | Nov. 21, 1867 | Jan. 23, 1868 |

Activities:

Georgetown, the home of the Georgetown Union Guard, was acclaimed at one time as the "Pride of the Mountains". It is situated on a ridge overlooking one of the richest mining districts of the State, and became a distributing center for supplies to those working in the mining camps of the surrounding territory and also beyond Coloma.

A rough element of people that were somewhat transient and who selected mining towns for their headquarters, settled in Georgetown. This town was located on the Overland Mail Route and frequent burglaries and mail robberies occurred. Wells Fargo & Company discontinued their office there as the county authorities were unable to convict and bring to justice the lawless marauders, this causing immense financial loss to the county.* As a result the citizens of Georgetown realized that protection by a military force was necessary. Therefore, on April 13, 1863, an order from

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*History of Eldorado County--Sioli, page 187, 190, State Library

Activities: (Continued)

the County Judge, James Johnson, gave permission to J. L. Griffith to organize a volunteer company of militia. On April twenty-fifth, there were sixty-two men who offered their services and at the meeting Aaron Bell was elected Captain of the company and George T. Heasey, First Lieutenant. The unit was mustered into service as the Georgetown Union Guard on that date, and received their arms and equipment during September of the following year.

The first assemblage of the company other than the weekly drills was at the Camp of Instruction at Camp Kibbe near Washington in Yolo County on September 19, 1863. This company being comparatively new, the men received much useful instruction and made great progress as all exercises were conducted on a basis of utility for active service. The uniforms consisting of regulation caps, blue shirts and black trousers, were not received until March 29, 1864, which was more than a year after the company was organized.

There was no other company history on file aside from the annual elections of officers and the reorganization of the company on several occasions. The Georgetown Union Guard when first organized was an unattached company, but in 1864, it was reorganized and designated as Company A, Second Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade. In 1866, the unit was again reorganized and designated as Company F, Fourth Infantry, Fourth Brigade.

It is assumed that after justice had been meted out to the robbers and outlaws and their depredations checked, military protection was no longer needed and the Georgetown Union Guard was mustered out of service on June 9, 1868, pursuant to Special Order No. 32, and the arms and accoutrements turned in to the State Arsenal.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1867-1869, page 144.

*C. G. Hubbard, formerly Captain of Company G, Eighth Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers.

*D. A. McConnell, First Lieutenant, became Lieutenant Colonel of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, Fourth Brigade, March 10, 1864.